

PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH EXTEND CONDOLENCES TO VICTIMS OF CYCLONE SIDR IN BANGLADESH

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 18 -- President and Mrs. Bush offer condolences to the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, especially those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in this tragedy. The United States Government has provided an initial contribution of 2.1 million dollars for emergency relief.

Additionally, the USS Essex and the USS Kearsarge are en route to Bangladesh to assist in operations there. USAID will airlift 35 tons of non-food items such as plastic sheeting, jerricans, hygiene kits and other supplies to provide needed material assistance. An 18 person Department of Defense medical team that was in Bangladesh prior to the storm is there to help with current medical needs. Working with the Government of Bangladesh, we are assessing critical needs to determine where our assistance can be most effective.

The United States is committed to helping the people of Bangladesh and their government as they face the many challenges of rebuilding and recovering.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)